

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Non-final Office Action dated July 30, 2003. In view of the above claim amendments, and the comments which follow, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

In the Office Action, all claims save independent claims 1 and 13 were indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Claims 1 and 13 were rejected on prior art grounds.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants herein cancel claims 1 – 13 of record, and substitute a new set of claims in which the subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner has been inserted. Specifically, new independent claim 14 represents a combination of former claims 1 + 2; new independent claim 16 represents a combination of former claims 1 + 4; and new independent claim 20 represents a combination of former claims 1 + 8.

As each of the new independent claims incorporates subject matter expressly deemed allowable in the Office Action, it is believed that the prior art rejection is rendered moot, and that all claims now stand in condition for immediate allowance.

In a formal matter, the Examiner objected to the drawings as not illustrating the claimed starter motor of which the invention is a part. Applicants would request the Examiner to withdraw this objection, in that the starter motor is illustrated at “1” in Fig. 14. Although this is nominally a prior art figure, the specification expressly indicates that the invention is used with the basic starter motor structure of Fig. 14, and consistently uses the reference numeral “1” to refer to the starter motor, throughout the description of both the prior art and the invention. Therefore, it is clear that the basic motor structure of Fig. 14 is common to both the prior art and the invention, such that one Figure can serve for both, for this purpose.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USAN 09/944,172

Q65810

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Turner', is written over a horizontal line.

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